

What is claimed is:

1. A system for secure storage of information and controlled grant of access to said information to clients on a network, said system comprising:
  - A. a server
  - B. a client computer coupled to said server via said network;
  - C. a datastore configured to store said information; and
  - D. an access controller coupled between said server and said datastore, wherein said access controller is adapted to function as an application server and provide a data representation of said information to said client by way of said server and said network as a function of:
    - (1) a request from said client sent by way of said network and said server; and
    - (2) predetermined criteria;wherein said data representation is transient in said server.
2. A system as in Claim 1, wherein said network includes the Internet and World Wide Web.
3. A system as in Claim 1, wherein said network includes a telephone network and said system includes a telephone coupled to said access controller via said telephone network.
4. A system as in Claim 1, wherein said predetermined criteria define a time window for

2 which said information is available for access.

1 5. A system as in Claim 1, wherein said criteria includes a start date, wherein said start date  
2 defines when said information is made available for access.

1 6. A system as in Claim 1, wherein said criteria includes a period of duration of access,  
2 wherein said period of duration of access commences upon said information being  
3 accessed by said client.

1 7. A system as in Claim 1, wherein said criteria includes an end date, wherein said end date  
2 defines when said information ceases to be available for access.

3 8. A system as in Claim 1, wherein said criteria includes a start date and a start time,  
4 wherein said start date and start time define when said information is made available for  
5 access, and further includes an end date and an end time, wherein said end date and end  
6 time define when said information ceases to be available for access.

1 9. A system as in Claim 1, wherein said request from said client includes a client  
2 identification and an information identification.

1 10. A system as in Claim 1, wherein said clients are typed and said data representation is  
2 provided to said client as a further function of a client type.  
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- 1 11. A system as in Claim 10, wherein said predetermined criteria may be different for  
2 different client types.
- 1 12. A system as in Claim 1, wherein said information includes a plurality of content items  
2 and said access controller provides to a graphical user interface of said client computer a  
3 client selectable content list, indicating content items for which said data representations  
4 can be provided to said client, wherein said client may generate said request by selecting  
5 a desired content item from said content list.
- 1 13. A system as in Claim 1, wherein a graphical user interface of a client computer includes  
2 mechanisms to facilitate said client generating said request by entering a URL, entering a  
3 content item identification, performing a text search, or manipulating a directory tree.
- 1 14. A system as in Claim 1, wherein said criteria include criteria for verifying that said client  
2 is entitled to be granted access to said information, said criteria for verifying including an  
3 identification of said user.
- 1 15. A system according to Claim 1, wherein said data representation is provided as a further  
2 function of history and profile information associated with said client.
- 1 16. A method for the secure storage and controlled grant of access to information in a  
2 datastore, wherein an access controller is coupled between said datastore and a server  
3 which is accessible by clients over a network, and wherein said access controller is

4 adapted to function as an application server to said server, the method comprising the  
5 steps of:

- 6 A. requesting said information by said client;
- 7 B. verifying that said client is entitled access to the information, as a function of:
- 8 (1) said user's request for said desired information; and
- 9 (2) predetermined criteria; and
- 10 C. providing a data representation of said information to said client,

11 wherein said data representation is transient in said server.

17. A method as in claim 16 wherein said network includes the Internet and World Wide  
Web.

18. A method as in claim 16 wherein said network includes a telephone network and a  
telephone coupled to said access controller via said telephone network.

19. A method as in Claim 16, wherein said predetermined criteria define a time window for  
which said information is available for access.

20. A method as in Claim 16, wherein said criteria includes a start date, wherein said start  
date defines when said information is made available for access.

21. A method as in Claim 16, wherein said criteria includes a period of duration of access,  
wherein said period of duration of access commences upon said information being

3           accessed by said client.

1       22.    A method as in Claim 16, wherein said criteria includes an end date, wherein said end  
2           date defines when said information ceases to be available for access.

1       23.    A method as in Claim 16, wherein said criteria includes a start date and a start time,  
2           wherein said start date and start time define when said information is made available for  
3           access, and further includes an end date and an end time, wherein said end date and end  
4           time define when said information ceases to be available for access.

1       24.    A method as in Claim 16, wherein said request for said information includes a client  
2           identification and an information identification.

1       25.    A method as in Claim 16, wherein said clients are typed and said data representation is  
2           provided to said client as a furtherfunction of a client type.

1       26.    A method as in Claim 25, wherein said predetermined criteria may be different for  
2           different client types.

1       27.    A method as in Claim 16, wherein said information includes a plurality of content items  
2           and the method includes, prior to step A, a step:

3           C.    providing to a graphical user interface of a client computer a client selectable

4 content list, indicating content items for which said data representations can be  
5 provided to said client.

1 28. A method as in Claim 16, wherein a graphical user interface of a client computer includes  
2 mechanisms to facilitate said client requesting said information, in step A, by entering a  
3 URL, entering a content item identification, performing a text search, or manipulating a  
4 directory tree.

1 29. A method as in Claim 16, wherein step B includes verifying an identification of said user.

1 30. A method as in Claim 16, wherein step B includes verifying said client is entitled to said  
2 data representation as a function of history and profile information associated with said  
3 client.